

Boulder Valley Models #381 Rambling Roadrunner Assembly Instructions

Before you begin: Wash resin parts, read notes on parts listing page, read instructions & consider your own preferences regarding painting, etc. prior to assembly.

Metric equivalents: 1" actual measure = 25.4 mm

1" (inch) scale measure = 0.53 mm * 1' (foot) scale measure = 6.35 mm

Railtruck Preparation

- ★ If you're starting with a Bachmann railtruck with a factory-painted cab, then it is not necessary to remove or modify the cab to complete your Rambling Roadrunner conversion. If you have a railtruck with an unpainted cab, refer to the back of the "Parts Listing" sheet for instructions on removal of the cab and hood.

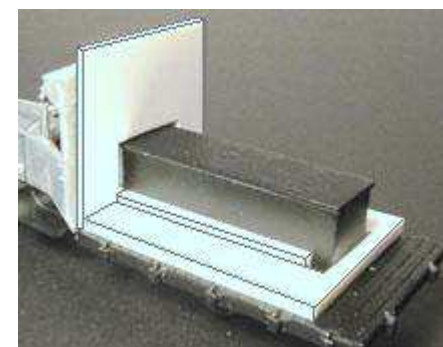
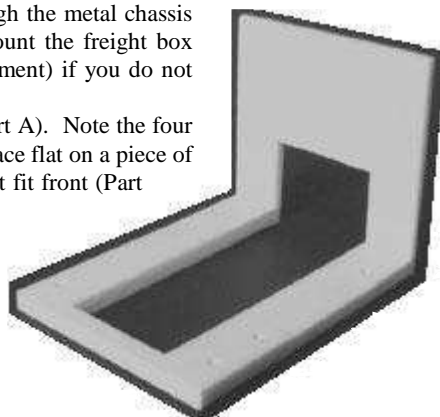


- ★ Test run your Bachmann railtruck prior to disassembly or modification in case any warranty work is needed. Break-in mechanism by running on a loop of track.
- Remove stake side pieces from Bachmann railtruck. Grasp rear section and gently work loose from stake pockets.
- Release pin securing side stake assembly into back of cab, then grasp stakes and gently work loose from stake pockets. Repeat for second side.



Assembly of Roadrunner Freight Box

- ★ **Design note:** We have designed the floor of the freight box to be screwed to the metal chassis of the Bachmann railtruck. This allows for easy removal of the freight box to provide access for changes to the DCC decoder, installation of sound, etc.
- ★ Installation of screws requires drilling through the metal chassis as described below. However, you may mount the freight box with removable adhesive (such as rubber cement) if you do not wish to drill through the metal chassis.
- Trim thin film away from center of floor (Part A). Note the four dimples located on **top side** of this piece. Place flat on a piece of wax paper with dimples facing upward. Test fit front (Part E) against front edge of the floor.
- **Make sure detailed side of front casting is on the outside** (away from viewer in photo). Glue in place as shown, aligning edges of floor with edges of front casting.

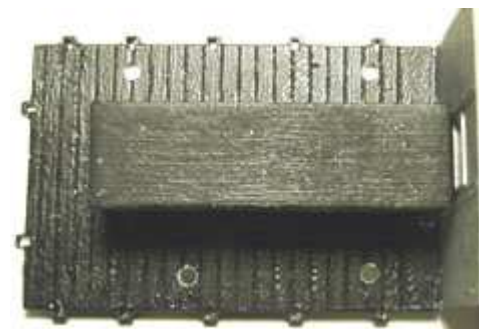


- Two shims (Part H) are provided to help center the box on stakebed. These are not glued to the actual assembly. Loosely place shims alongside both sides of toolbox as shown above left. Then loosely place front/floor assembly as shown above right. Slide assembly forward (toward cab) and center side-to-side.
- Clamp the floor to the stakebed using hobby clamps ... or binder clips as shown. You may also use double-sided tape or temporary adhesive.
- Double check to make sure assembly is properly placed and centered. Then drill 1/16" hole [1.6 mm] at each of the (4) dimples in floor. Drill through resin floor and just slightly into metal stakebed -- just enough to "mark" the location. Important: Note that the dimple at right rear is offset slightly forward -- these are necessary to clear the fuel tank below the stakebed.

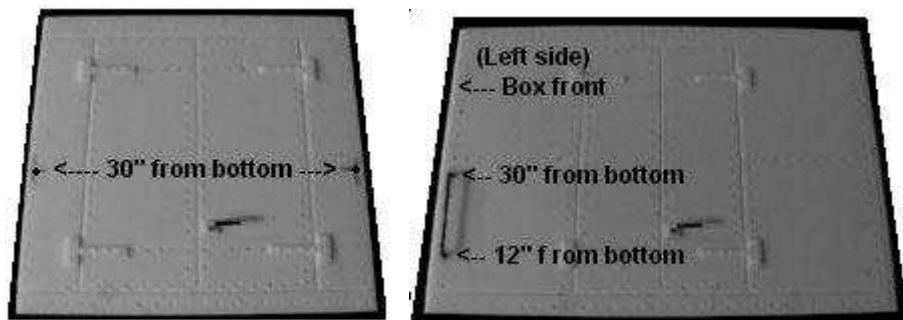


- Remove floor/front assembly from the stakebed. Use masking tape and tin foil, plastic wrap or other flexible material to cover the drive components (to keep out any metal bits from drilling). Drill 3/32" [2.4 mm] clearance holes through the metal stakebed at each of the (4) spots "marked" with the smaller drill bit.

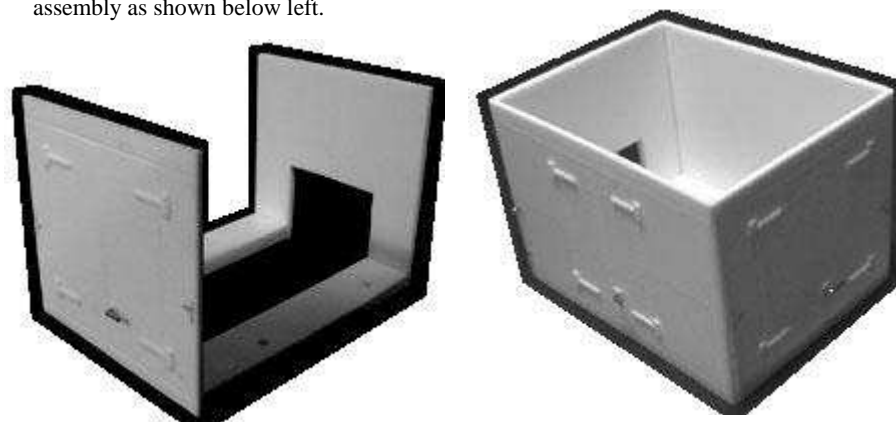
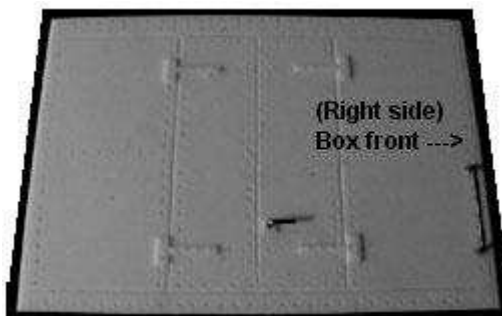
- ★ Placement of grab-irons is optional. Use our measurements to place as shown or vary as desired. Use fine wire provided (Part N) to form grab-irons. Use #75 drill for mounting holes. [Metric: Match drill to wire diameter, approx. 0.5 mm]



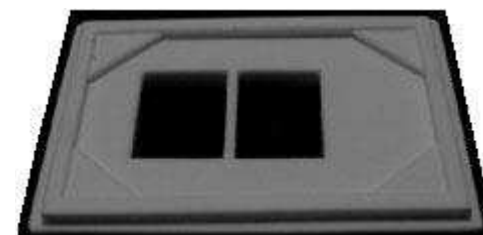
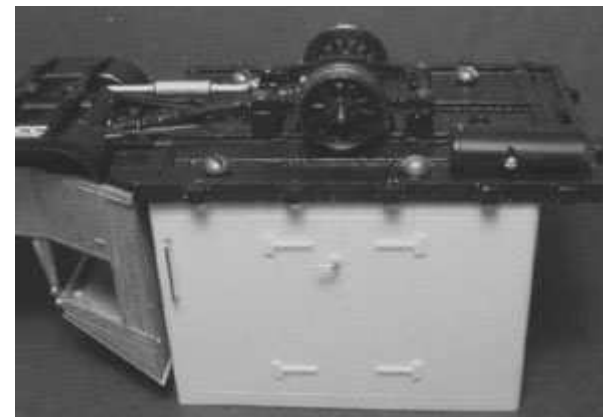
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- Drill two #75 holes as shown on back wall (Part F), approximately 30" scale [15.8 mm] from bottom edge and located along the vertical row of nail holes. These will receive grab-rails as shown in "Final Assembly."
- Drill #75 hole in center of square plate on right-hand door. Use needle-nose pliers to bend fine wire 4" scale from end [2 mm]. Clip 4" scale from bend and glue in place as shown.
- Drill three #75 holes as shown on left side (Part G). Form door handle as described above and glue in place as shown. Form grab iron from fine wire and glue in place as shown. Ends should be flush with back of casting -- wire can be sanded down from back if needed. Scale measurements shown [2.5 & 15.8 mm from bottom]
- Drill three #75 holes as shown on right side (Part G) -- notice that the placement of the grab-iron is reversed. Form grab-iron and door latch as described above and glue in place. Trim or file ends flush with back of casting.
- ★ **Orientation:** If you choose to place grab-irons as shown, be sure to double-check placement of sides during assembly!
- Glue back wall to front/floor assembly as shown below left.



- Glue sides in place as shown at bottom of previous column -- note orientation of grab-irons toward front of box assembly.
- Place box assembly on stakebed and invert as shown. Slowly drive each of the (4) screws through the clearance holes and into the smaller holes in box floor -- screws will self-tap into the resin.
- Place truck upright and check alignment of box on stakebed. If the box has been pulled crooked, it may be necessary to enlarge one or more of the clearance holes. Remove box and adjust holes as needed. (Screw heads can be spray-painted flat black or brush-painted after final assembly.)
- Trim thin film from center of roof insert (Part C). Test fit inside box assembly and file edges if needed -- insert will allow roof to press-fit onto freight box.
- Carefully center on bottom of roof (Part B) as shown. We suggest using 5-minute epoxy to glue these pieces, as this will allow time to double-check and adjust alignment -- make sure roof insert is centered.
- Allow glue to set fully before placing roof on freight box again to avoid accidental bonding! (The removable roof will make it easier to install sound unit if desired.)
- **Painting tip:** We assembled & painted the mailbox body assembly and roof assembly as separate units to facilitate a two-color paint scheme. Plan ahead for your preferences. Also, we painted the vent roof (Part D) separately prior to installation. This makes it easier to spray paint into the "nooks and crannies" of the roof opening.
- Curving the vent roof (Part D) -- This thin piece may be curved when glued in place. Or, you may wish to introduce a curve in advance of painting. To do this, hold the piece under hot running tap water and bend around your finger, the roof or other curved surface. Run under cold water to set, then paint. It doesn't have to be a perfect match at this point, but a little flexing in advance will make installation easier.
- Carefully trim step (Part K) from thin backing material. Test fit into stake pockets on rear of railtruck -- part fits in from the bottom. Remove flash from stake pockets and trim/file step post if needed for good fit. Set aside for painting.
- Carefully trim cleats (Part L) from thin backing material. Test fit into stake pockets on railtruck -- parts fit in from the top. Remove flash from stake pockets and trim/file step post if needed for good fit. Set aside for painting. (Place on double-sided or folded masking tape for painting.)



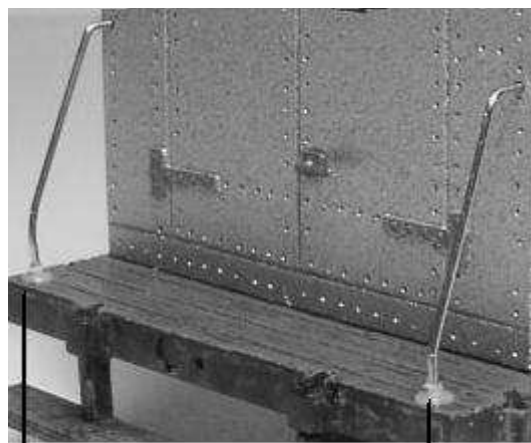
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Painting Ideas

- ★ You can choose any sort of monochrome or multi-color paint scheme, depending on the style of your On30 railroad. We strongly recommend using a solvent-based primer as a base coat. After that, you may use a variety of paints, including water-based acrylics, etc. -- these may be sprayed, brushed or applied in thin washes.
- ★ At this point, we pre-painted the following as separate parts or assemblies: freight box assembly; main roof; vent roof; step and cleats.
- ★ Also, you may wish to paint and weather the frame of your Bachmann railtruck. Be sure to mask all of the drive and electrical components if using an airbrush or spray paint.
- ★ **Paint colors:** We sprayed all items with a light coat of Krylon 1218 Primer. The roofs were then misted with Testor's 1246 Silver and Model Master 1954 Light Earth, followed by a heavier mist of Testor's 1249 Flat Black.
- ★ The freight box assembly was painted with the same colors in a different order. First, they were misted with Light Earth and Flat Black, then sprayed with a heavier mist of Silver.
- ★ Steps and cleats were painted with a mix of Flat Black and Light Earth.
- ★ Please visit our the "Painting Tips" section on our web site for color photos showing some simple techniques used on this model!
- ★ All lettering was done with Woodland Scenics dry transfer letters & numbers.

Final Assembly

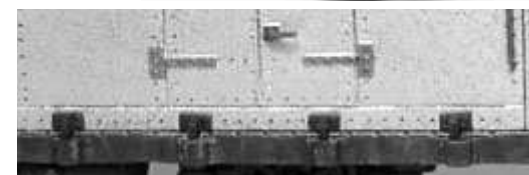
- We suggest one of two techniques for gluing the vent roof on top of roof assembly. (1) Use 5-minute epoxy to allow maximum time for centering, then hold in place while the glue sets ... or ... (2) place a small dab of ACC at the center of each roof rib, carefully center roof ... allow the ACC to set, then apply another dab on each rib (below roof) along one edge and seat that side ... then repeat for the other.
- Use mounting screws to place finished freight box assembly on Bachmann railtruck chassis as shown previously.
- Glue (2) cored bolt/washer castings (Part J) to railtruck bed as shown -- align with holes drilled in back wall of box -- exact placement may be varied.
- Use fine wire (Part N) to form



Cored bolt/washers on truck deck

railings as shown -- or vary to suit (curves, angles, etc.).

- Important:** To keep the freight box removable **only glue one end** of each rear grab railing. (We glued base end.) Use brush to paint railings and bolt detail.
- Rear step (Part K) mounts into the stakebed pockets from below. Use small dabs of ACC to glue in place as shown.
- Important:** Box cleats (Part L) are included to provided a visible means of "clamping" the freight box to the stakebed. In order to keep the freight box removable, **do not glue cleats against box** -- use tiny dabs of ACC to secure cleats in stake pockets and leave a thin gap between each cleat and side of freight box. Glue cleats in place as shown. (Extra pieces are included in case you drop one of these little cleats!)



- ★ So far, we've kept our rail truck "neat & clean" ... with moderate weathering provided by the "layered mists" paint job ... but it's easy to imagine adding a variety of details, such as a driver, horn, small bell and maybe even a hobo or rail hand hanging out on the rear deck. Have fun!
- ★ Boulder Valley Models is owned & operated by Dallas Mallerich -- an On30 modeler who shares your interests and enthusiasm. Please feel free to write or email with any questions or ideas that you may have!
- ★ Thank you for your continued support, interest, ideas and encouragement! -- Dallas

Boulder Valley Models

<http://hometown.aol.com/On30resinkits/index.html>

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Visit the "Painting Tips" section of our web site for color photos of this Rambling Roadrunner conversion and suggestions for some simple painting techniques!